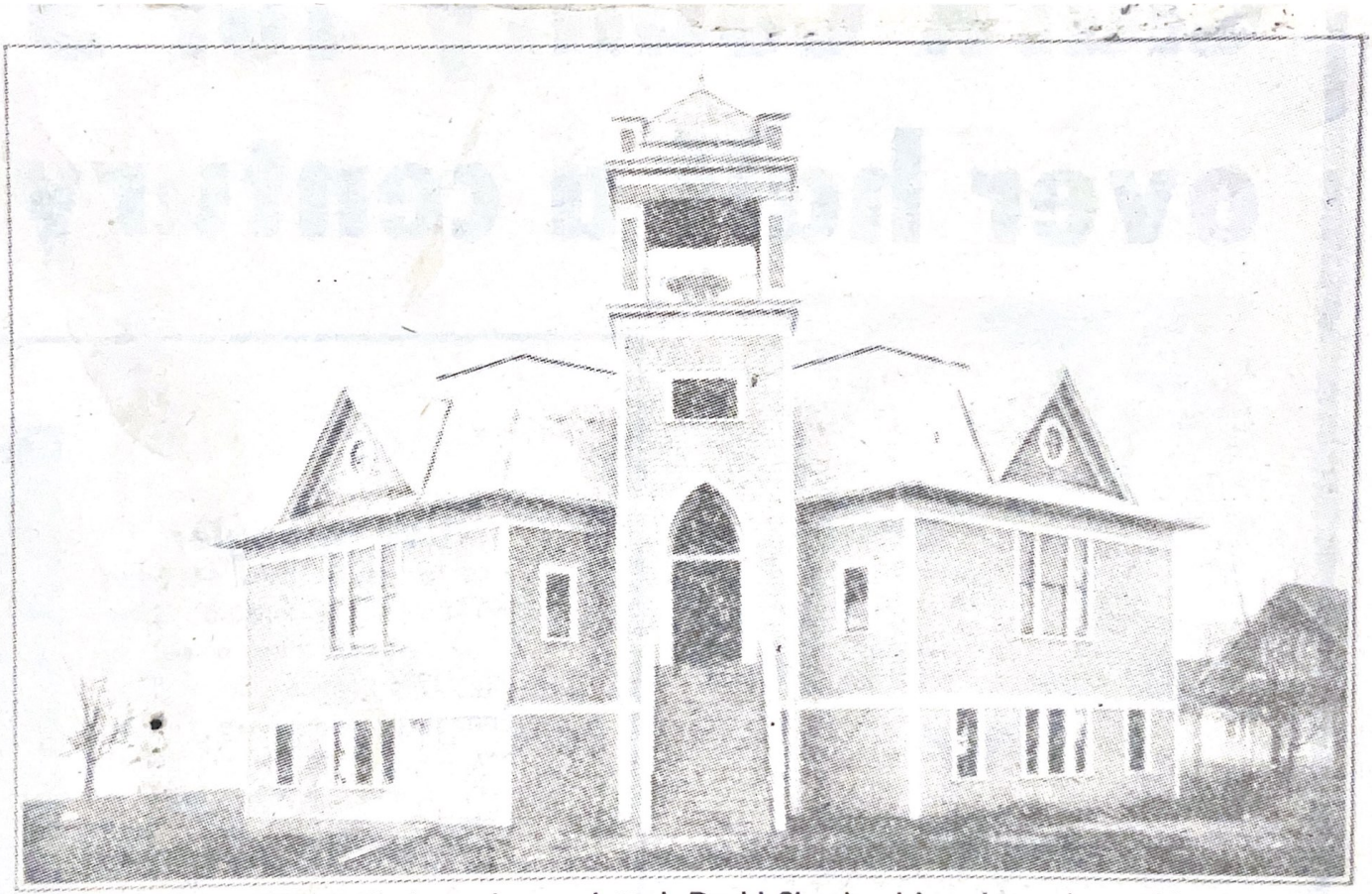

AFTER THE TOWN of Washougal was platted, David Shepherd bought a piece of land west of town. A part of this he donated as a building site for a church. In 1880, the Rev. Dr. Atkinson began services in private residences and in the schoolhouse. Then with $250 from the Congregational Church Building Society and $250 collected from the citizens of the town, especially from David Shepherd, J. E. C. Durgan and D. L. Russel, this church was built on the southwest corner of First and Durgan Streets, across from the town hall. The building was dedicated Nov. 5, 1882, with the aforementioned three men as the first trustees. The name of this first church in Washougal was Bethel Congregational Church.